Violation of Flight Time Duty Limitation regulations by pilots in Indian

731. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pilots of the State-owned domestic carrier Indian have allegedly violated Flight Time Duty Limitation regulations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it will hamper the security of passengers; and

(d) the steps Government are taking so that in future this will not happen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) During a surprise check carried out by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in January, 2007, it was observed that seven pilots of Indian Airlines Limited had exceeded Flight Time Duty Limitation (FDTL). The pilots were off rostered, warned and penalty imposed.

(c) FDTL requlations are aimed at ensuring that stress and fatigue on pilots are consistent with the safety requirements of air operations.

(d) Instructions have been issued to all concerned to strictly adhere to a number of corrective measures suggested to avoid recurrence of such incidents.

Security lapse at Mumbai Airport

732. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the poor security arrangements at the country's airport these days;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that an air passenger carried a revolver and live cartridges in his baggage from Mumbai to Dubai without any security screening; and

(c) if so, the action taken/being taken against the defaulters and arrangements to be made to tighten security in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Security arrangements at airports in the country are elaborate and effective. All airports have laid down standard security arrangements. The airports are protected by a perimeter wall, physical guarding and by patrolling round the clock. Anti-hijacking and anti-sabotage measures and counter terrorist Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs) are in position at all airports. A dedicated armed force, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has been deployed at 54 airports and it will be inducted at all remaining operational airports in a phased manner. The CISF is the airport security unit and is overall in-charge of security, including pre-embarkation security measures related to aircraft security. Hold baggage security measures are implemented by airlines concerned. Manpower deployed is supported by adequate gadgetry and equipment.

(b) On 13.1.2007, a passenger traveled on Air India flight AI-717 from Mumbai to Dubai was detected with a pistol and 30 rounds of cartridges by Custom Authorities at Dubai.

(c) The baggage of the passenger was screened by a Security Agent from M/s. Air India Air Transport Service Ltd., who apparently failed to detect the revolver and live cartridges. The security agent has since been suspended.

This is a failure at the individual level. All concerned have been directed to be extra vigilant in screening and in other Aviation Security functions.

Infrastructure Development in 35 Non-Metro Airports

733. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Airports Authority of India (AAI) is putting surplus land in 35 non-metro airports to good use by developing them at an estimated cost of Rs. 8,000 crore;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the AAI will construct hotels, shopping areas, eateries, convention centres, cargo complex, parking lots and health centres as part of infrastructure development on the city-side; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?